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23. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 17,
in which the condition is selected from the group
consisting of gastrointestinal ulcers, gastro-oesophageal
reflux, gastric carcinoid, and Zollinger-Ellison syndrome,
5 with the proviso that the metal ion is not bismuth.

24. A peptide which is a fragment of a non-amidated
gastrin and which

- (a) comprises at least glutamate residue 7 of the -
10 (Glu)₅- sequence of non-amidated gastrin, and
(b) which is capable of binding one or more ferric
ions, with the proviso that the peptide is not full length
Ggly, full length glycine-extended gastrin or full length
progastrin, or LE₅AYG.

15 25. A peptide according to claim 24, consisting of
amino acids 5 to 14 of the Ggly sequence.

26. A peptide according to claim 24, selected from
20 the group consisting of Ggly₅₋₁₈, Ggly₁₋₁₁, LE₅AY, LE₅A, LE₅,
E₅A, E₅, and E₅AY.

27. A peptide according to any one of claims 24 to
26, in which the carboxy terminus of the peptide is
25 amidated.

28. A peptide according to any one of claims 24 to
26, in which the amino terminus of the peptide is
acetylated.

- 30 29. A complex comprising
(a) a non-amidated gastrin, a peptide fragment
thereof according to any one of claims 24 to 28, or LE₅AYG,
and
35 (b) a trivalent metal ion.

30. A complex according to claim 29, in which the

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trivalent metal ion is Bi^{3+} or Ga^{3+} .

31. A complex according to claim 29 or claim 30,
comprising a non-amidated gastrin and bismuth ions.

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32. A pharmaceutical composition comprising
(a) a peptide according to any one of claims 24 to
28, LE_5AYG , or

10 (b) a complex according to any one of claims 29 to
31,
together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,
excipient or diluent.

33. A method of promoting intestinal function,
15 comprising the step of administering
(a) a peptide according to any one of claims 24 to 27
or LE_5AYG , and/or
(b) a complex according to claim 28 or claim 29
to a subject in need of such treatment.

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34. A method according to claim 31, in which the
subject is suffering from injury to the bowel, an
inflammatory condition of the bowel, or short bowel
syndrome, has undergone a partial or complete resection of
25 the bowel, or is undergoing total parenteral nutrition.

35. A method of screening of candidate metal ion-
binding compounds for ability to modulate the activity of
non-amidated gastrins, comprising the steps of
30 a) assessing the ability of the compound to inhibit
binding of ferric ions to a non-amidated gastrin and/or
b) assessing the ability of the compound to modulate
proliferation and/or migration of cells of a gastric
mucosal cell line in response to a non-amidated gastrin.

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36. A method according to claim 35, in which the non-
amidated gastrin is Ggly_{17} .

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37. A method according to claim 35 or claim 36, in which the gastric mucosal cell line is IMGE-5.

5 38. A method according to any one of claims 35 to 37, in which the compound is additionally assessed for its ability to inhibit Gamide-induced inositol phosphate production, and/or cellular proliferation in cells which express the CCK-2 receptor.

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39. Use of a compound which has the ability to inhibit the binding of ferric ions to glycine-extended gastrin₁₇ or to progastrin, but which does not inhibit the activity of amidated gastrin, in the manufacture of a
15 medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition associated with elevated levels of non-amidated gastrin.

40. Use of

(a) a peptide fragment according to any one of claims
20 24 to 27, LE₅AYG, and/or
(b) a complex according to claim 28 or claim 29 in the manufacture of a medicament for promoting intestinal function.